



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town and State Police Plan Special Olympics Spirit Night

The Virginia State Police and Culpeper Police Department hope customers turn out in force and in the 'spirit' to support Virginia Special Olympics Spirit night Monday, May 19 at Chick-fil-A.

State trooper and dispatchers, along with Culpeper police officers will once again attempt to raise money for Virginia Special Olympics.

Last week, Culpeper Police and Virginia State Police collected \$2,250 in donations during the Tip-A-Cop fundraiser at Glory Days Grill.

"The community came out and really supported Special Olympics Virginia last week," said Culpeper Police Chief Chris Jenkins.

Culpeper Chick-fil-A owner Rick Combs said that the store will donate 20 percent of the proceeds on sales from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for those customers saying they support Special Olympics Virginia.

"Tell us you support the Special Olympics when placing your order, and we will do the rest," said Combs.

The cashier will then hit a button that shows that sale as part of Spirit Night.

Instead of waiting on tables at Chick-fil-A as they did a Glory Days Grills, officers, troopers and dispatchers will be on hand to interact with customers and answer questions. McGruff the Crime Dog will also make a guest appearance.

State and town police vehicles will be on display. The police department's Kid's ID will also be available for parents wishing to use that service. Coloring books and stickers also will be available.

State police will sell Special Olympics T-shirts and ball caps as part of the fund-raiser.

Each year, law enforcement officers from throughout the state participate in Special Olympics Virginia programs, including the Torch Run. All money collected as proceeds at Chick-fil-A and received from sales of items goes toward sponsoring Special Olympics Virginia programs and its athletes.

The Special Olympics is an international year-round program of sports training and competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities. More than 1 million athletes in more than 160 countries train and compete in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports, with more than 13,000 Special Olympics athletes in Virginia. There is no cost to participate in the Special Olympics.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia is the largest grassroots fund-raising and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world. Each year, officers carry the Flame of Hope through the streets of their hometowns and countries and deliver it to their local, state or national Special Olympics games.

"We hope the community will turn out once again and support this worthwhile effort," said Virginia State Trooper Brooks Taylor. "Be sure to tell them when you order that you support Special Olympics Virginia."

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